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ELEVENTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE

HISTORICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS
DEPARTMENT

OF THE

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

1911-1912

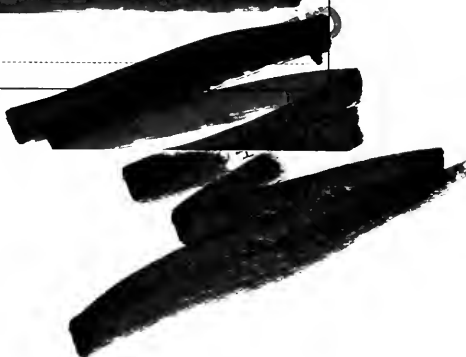
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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY



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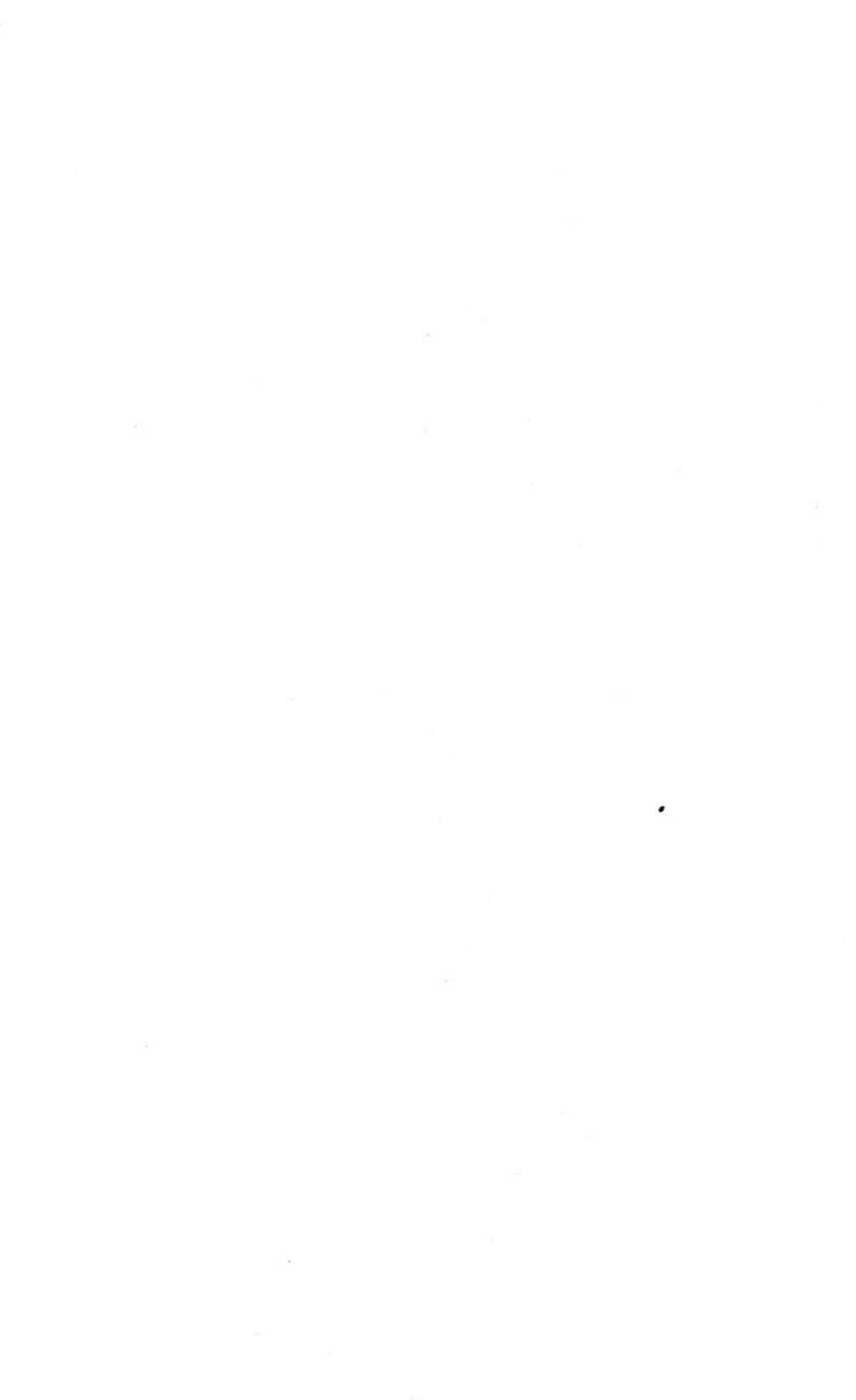
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OFFICERS
OF THE
HISTORICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS
DEPARTMENT
OF THE
Montana State Library.

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W. Y. Pemberton, Librarian



Eleventh Biennial Report.

Helena, Montana, December 1, 1912.

Hon. Edwin L. Norris, Governor:

Sir—We herewith submit the eleventh biennial report of the Historical and Miscellaneous Department of the Montana State Library for the two years ending December 1, 1912. A statement of all important transactions is embraced in the report of the Librarian attached hereto, which we commend to your careful examination.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

We respectfully offer the following recommendations:

1. That a State Historian be appointed, whose duty it shall be to collect historical data for this institution; and that sufficient appropriation be made to maintain such an office.
2. That a sufficient amount be appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose of purchasing the necessary furniture for the library in this report requested.

(Signed) FRANK H. WOODY,

President of Board.

LESTER S. WILLSON.

JAMES U. SANDERS.

W. M. BIGGS.

W. T. PIGOTT—I do not approve of Recommendation No. 1.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

To the Honorable Board of Trustees of the Historical and Miscellaneous Department of the State Library:

Gentlemen—I herewith submit the eleventh biennial report of the Librarian of the Historical and Miscellaneous Department of the State Library covering the years 1911-1912. During the present year the library has been removed into new quarters, and now occupies an entire floor in the east wing of the Capitol. The quarters are much more commodious, pleasant and suitable for library purposes than the old rooms. We have been enabled in our new home to hang up and display the many valuable paintings and pictures belonging to the library. The furnishings of the new library are most excellent and have been the subject of much commendation by the many people who have visited the library and our new quarters will furnish ample facilities and a home for the library for some years to come.

Accessions.

The library has accessioned during the past two years 3263 volumes, 1980 by purchase and 1283 by gift, including exchanges. The library now has on its shelves approximately 20,313 volumes and about 3,200 pamphlets.

Newspaper Files.

There is nothing in the library for which there is a greater demand than the newspaper files. We are frequently called upon by persons throughout the state, and outside, for copies of notices required in court proceedings and in the acquirement of title to public lands which have been published years ago in newspapers which have gone out of existence, and but for our files of such papers it would be impossible for the parties in interest to prove that such notices had ever been published as required by law. This fact alone renders the newspaper files of the library of incalculable value especially as such files are not preserved anywhere else. In order to preserve our files we have procured three additional steel roller book shelf cases at a cost of \$2,385.00. And as our files are rapidly increasing, it will be necessary from time to time, to purchase additional cases. We have added during the last year to the bound files of newspapers, 294 volumes.

Collecting Historical Data.

As stated in the former report:

Recognizing the necessity of securing the facts concerning early day people and events, which, if secured and written in our books, would render our pioneer history interesting and valuable, I have endeavored to accomplish this object by enlisting the aid of the public press of the state. I have attended editorial conventions; I have visited a number of the old counties of the state and interviewed prominent old timers and besought them and their children to write down and give us their early day experiences and knowledge of pioneer events and people; I have attended the meetings of the Pioneer Society and urged the importance of these things upon them as well as upon the Society of the Sons and Daughters of Pioneers; I have written a great many letters to pioneer men and women throughout the state and am grieved to admit that the results have been disappointing so far, although there are still many outstanding promises of aid in the premises. I am of the opinion that, if this work is ever done, we will have to secure for that purpose a suitable person to go over the state and gather these historical facts and prepare them for the library. I don't think we can depend upon voluntary contributions alone, for this work.

I desire to emphasize this statement in relation to the collecting of historical data. Unless some provision is made for a special assistant to travel over the state and gather this data, it will never find its way into the library. In the last report we asked for such a special assistant but the legislature declined the request. The importance of this matter should be urged upon the consideration of the legislature.

Historical Publications.

The library has not published its annual book of Contributions during this year, for the reason that it has been necessary to use the appropriation made for the library by the last legislature, in paying the cost of moving the library and purchasing new steel cases and other furniture which has amounted in the aggregate to about \$3,400.00. The legislature failed at its last session to make any appropriation for these purposes and we were compelled to use our appropriation in order to save damage to books, newspaper files, etc. During the year, however, the library has procured manuscript and data suffi-

cient for more than one volume. We consider the securing of this manuscript and data of greater importance than the publication of it during the year as it can be published at any time hereafter.

Legislative Reference Bureau.

The past two years have shown very gratifying evidence of the growing utility of this department. Letters have been sent to the members of the Legislature calling attention to the work of the department and offering its services. The Bureau is prepared to ascertain the following facts relating to legislation:

1. Previous legislation in this state on any subject.
2. What states have passed laws on a desired topic.
3. Reference to any books treating on legislative questions.
4. Public comment in current periodicals.

The selection of material is not large, but seems adequate to serve the demand at the present time. In the card catalog will be found many references to material in the Law Library as well as references to the books and articles in the Historical Department.

A complete subject index has been made of all bills introduced whether passed or not, during the legislative sessions of 1907, 1909 and 1911. This index alone has proven most valuable.

Requirements.

The principle requirement of the library now is a proper provision for the preservation of the thousands of books now improperly stored away in the basement of the Capitol. Many of these books are of great historical value. In order to properly take care of them it will require a very considerable amount of shelving and cases. The Board of Examiners declined to permit wooden shelving in the basement. It will therefore be necessary, in order to preserve these books, that we have a special appropriation of at least \$3,000.00 to purchase steel shelving and cases. The importance of this matter is most earnestly urged upon the consideration of the legislature.

During the past two years, the library has not only grown in size and value to the state, but has grown, we are gratified to say, rapidly in the estimation of the people and we think will continue to grow in this direction, as the people become

acquainted with its importance to the present generation and to those who shall come in the after generations.

In closing I desire to express my high appreciation of the very efficient and faithful services rendered by the two assistant librarians, Miss Florence Fortune and Miss Mary F. Sheriff.

In the appendix attached hereto will be found tables showing the accounts of the receipts and expenditures of the library.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Y. PEMBERTON,

Librarian.

EXPENDITURES.

December 1, 1910—December 1, 1911.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Books | \$ 578.57 |
| Magazines and Newspapers | 64.66 |
| Binding | 103.70 |
| Express and Drayage | 114.24 |
| Furnishings | 239.15 |
| Telegraph and Telephone | 61.88 |
| Stamps | 85.00 |
| Extra Help | 200.00 |
| Traveling Expenses | 24.80 |
| Insurance | 140.00 |
| Supplies and Miscellaneous | 61.97 |

Total\$1673.97

December 1, 1911—December 1, 1912.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Books | \$ 391.71 |
| Magazines and Newspapers | 155.30 |
| Express and Drayage | 18.95 |
| Furnishings | 2677.40 |
| Telephone | 60.00 |
| Stamps | 60.00 |
| Moving Expenses | 517.86 |
| Traveling Expenses | 20.35 |
| Supplies and Miscellaneous | 87.50 |

Total\$3989.07

AMOUNTS RECEIVED AND DISBURSED BY LIBRARIAN.

Receipts.

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Cash on hand December 1, 1910..... | \$ 10.50 |
| H. H. Wilson—refund on overcharge..... | 1.80 |
| Historical Contributions sold | 143.50 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total Receipts | \$155.80—\$155.80 |

Expenditures.

| | |
|---|----------|
| Magazine and Newspaper Subscriptions..... | \$ 31.30 |
| Books and Maps | 20.64 |
| Labor | 9.00 |
| Express and Drayage | 18.00 |
| Supplies and Miscellaneous | 26.28 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total Expenditures | \$105.22 |
| Balance on Hand December 1, 1912..... | 50.58 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$155.80 |

County of Lewis and Clark, }
State of Montana, } ss.

W. Y. Pemberton, being first duly sworn, deposes that he is the person making the within account, and that the same account is correct.

W. Y. Pemberton,
Librarian.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of November, 1912.

PERCY WITMER,
Notary Public for the State of
Montana, residing at Helena,
Montana.

My Commission expires March 23, 1913.

DISCARDED
JUN 24 1969
LIBRARY



